

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service



NRCS *Utah*

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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MAY 02 2003

April 8, 2003
Mr. Rick Black
HDR Engineering, INC.
3995 South 700 East, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84107-2594

ATTENTION: Finance Docket No. 34075 – Environmental Comments

Dear Mr. Black;

The proposed rail line between Levan and Salina, Utah is likely to encounter the following environmental concerns.

There are wet soils in the area east of Chicken Creek Reservoir. The Roshe Springs and Saltair series are both on the hydric soils list for Juab County. The Juab siding is in an area mapped as the Roshe Springs soil.

From the narrative description I assume the alignment will run west of the major irrigation canals in the Gunnison and Centerfield areas. If so there is little or no effect on prime or important farmland in that area.

South of Redmond the alignment will encounter the irrigated cropland. Both prime and statewide important farmland will be encountered. Another effect of a rail line crossing the valley in this area is the disruption of irrigation water delivery systems and altering the layout of fields. As the alignment crosses the Sevier River and its floodplain, wet lands will be encountered again.

If you have any questions please call me at (435) 896-6441 extension 134.

Sincerely,

Victor L. Parslow
Soil Scientist

Cc: Vane Campbell, Area Conservationist
William Broderson, State Soil Scientist